

## “OVER THERE”

stuffs to sell to American soldiers; second, we were “broke,” almost to a man, and only a few of us had the money to buy what little was offered for sale. Many of us had not been paid off since we entered the army in May. French bread and “vin rouge” seemed to be the staples of the French peasants, and we Sammies developed a special fondness for both of these. Blackberries were plentiful and free for the picking, and many of us often supplemented our dessertless meals with a most delicious blackberry dessert. Tobacco of any kind was more difficult to get than food. It is bad enough to be hungry, but it is worse for habitual tobacco users to go for days without a taste of tobacco. Their nerves go to pieces and the craving almost drives them crazy. A few fellows had brought over a few extra cartons of cigarettes. As soon as one of these fellows lighted a cigarette he was surrounded by a group of eager buddies, each pleading for the next “draw.” No street urchin ever picked up cigarette “stumps” more eagerly than we did at that time. For once, at least, police details were relieved of the obnoxious task of picking up “ducks.” Then came the day when we got our first issue of Bull Durham, one sack per squad. This was placed in the hands of the corporals, who gave each man the “makings” for three cigarettes a day, one after each meal.